

NEPAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT 2018

March 2018

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One year after the earthquakes in Nepal, Sadhana Shrestha, the former Executive Director of UUSC's partner, Tewa, predicted that "the most important achievement" of the work UUSC supported in Nepal following the 2015 earthquakes, would be

building the self-confidence of the community, providing support to them as and when they needed it the most, transferring skills and knowledge to the community to [help them realize their] competen[ence], confiden[ce], and str[ength], and ab[ility] to work for themselves and their families.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of our February 2018 impact assessment in Nepal was seeing how Sadhana's prediction came to life in person, not just within Tewa's communities, where newly empowered women can, for the first time, envision their own involvement in local politics; but also among the Indigenous Tamang community living near the China border, where, with LAHURNIP's support, communities fight for adequate compensation and community protections in connection with large-scale development projects; within the communities of single women across Nepal supported by WHR, from which nearly 100 single women have been identified as political candidates by national parties; and in Nepal's remote Gorkha district, where five of Empower Generation's women entrepreneurs have gone on to win ward member elections since our support began.

Nearly three years after the devastating earthquakes in Nepal, this **the empowerment and increased agency of traditionally oppressed groups**, including Dalits, Indigenous People, and women stands out as the hallmark of the work UUSC supported there. As one member of the woman's organization and Tewa grantee, Srijanshil Mahila, told us, "Politics [in Nepal] are typically set up where women are expected to take the supporting roles, like treasurer or secretary. *Now, we can fight for lead roles.*"

Moreover, according to data reported by our partners, UUSC-funded projects have thus far benefited (directly or indirectly) **more than 112,000 individuals**. That amounts to ~\$3 per beneficiary, and an average of ~7,450 beneficiaries per grant truly remarkable numbers.

Yet, the program also suffered from shortcomings. First, a longer time commitment would have allowed UUSC to continue to strengthen this very nascent movement toward engagement in local politics by a new generation of leaders. In light of this, UUSC's future crisis responses should consider committing to longer-term empowerment strategies ideally lasting three-to-five years that can **capitalize on the human rights opportunities created by humanitarian disasters**.

Second, prior to our impact and learning meeting in February 2018, UUSC's partners had never been all together in the same room and did not appear to have strong preexisting relationships. Yet, at the end of the meeting, each and every partner expressed a strong desire to collaborate in the future and were eager to capitalize on the opportunity to come together and learn from each other. In the future, UUSC should aim to **bring partners together at the beginning of a program** and explore with them opportunities for collaboration and learning in an on-going way over the course of the program.

Despite these limitations, however, UUSC's Nepal earthquake response once again demonstrated the **strength and value of UUSC's unique approach to grantmaking in humanitarian disaster contexts**. While UUSC's board has indicated a preference that our future disaster responses encompass more than just grantmaking, it would be wise to consider the direct impact of our emergency-related grants on local partners and the historically oppressed communities they serve as we make determinations about the scope of our future emergency response work.

BACKGROUND ON THE 2015 EARTHQUAKES IN NEPAL

On April 25, 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Nepal killed nearly 9,000 people, injured approximately 23,000, and rendered more than 3.5 million people homeless. Aftershocks occurred throughout the country, including a 7.3 magnitude earthquake on May 12, 2015, that killed more than 150 people and injured 2,500 more. In total, an estimated 900,000 homes were destroyed or severely damaged. Entire villages were flattened. Historic buildings and UNESCO World Heritage Sites were destroyed in the Kathmandu Valley.



Much of the damage to Nepal's historic sites has yet to be repaired. Above, a plinth upon which a temple once stood, in Bhaktapur. (Feb. 2018)

Unlike the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, which devastated a major urban center but spared the surrounding regions, the earthquakes in Nepal impacted an area the size of New Jersey, home to some of the world's "highest and most dangerous mountains."¹ Overall, the earthquake affected a quarter of the country's population of approximately 27 million people, or 6.75 million total individuals.²

At the time of the earthquakes, democracy in Nepal was less than a decade old, and the transition from years of civil war with Maoist rebels to a parliamentary democracy was slow.³ A fuel blockade supported by the Indian government and championed by ethnic protestors unhappy with the country's new constitution caused crippling fuel shortages in late 2015 – just at the start of winter across a country still struggling to rebuild from the quakes.⁴ As such, the rebuilding process was plagued with challenges stemming from poor governance and protracted political instability. In the aftermath of the earthquake, women, minorities, and children were particularly vulnerable to violations of their human rights and faced barriers to accessing relief and rehabilitation support.

¹ E. Troutman, "What Happened to the Aid? Nepal Earthquake Response Echoes Haiti" (Jun. 2015), <http://aid.works/2015/06/nepal-haiti/>.

² See also R. Freed's Nepal Strategy Memo (updated Feb. 2016).

³ T. Bhusal, "Nepal's slow shift to federalism: Why it's taking so long to take shape" (Aug. 17, 2016), <https://www.policyforum.net/nepals-slow-shift-to-federalism/>.

⁴ BBC, "Nepal blockade: Six ways it affects the country" (Dec. 12, 2015), <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35041366>.

THE RESPONSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AID COMPLEX

Immediately following the first earthquake, the international humanitarian aid complex (“IHAC”) – namely multilateral agencies and foreign governments, but also private donors and organizations – pledged more than \$4 billion to the response.⁵ Yet, as is often the case following disasters,⁶ few dollars or details about pledged IHAC funding, such as how it would be spent and on what, actually reached the Nepalese government or individuals and organizations coordinating the response on the ground in Nepal.⁷

Much of the “assistance” that did reach Nepal was either the wrong kind or expressly rejected by the Nepalese government. Despite the fact that most victims were in hard-to-reach *rural* areas, countries sent 53 *urban* search and rescue teams to Kathmandu. The nearly 2,000 search and rescuers who descended upon Nepal in the days immediately following the earthquake could only save 16 people⁸ – most lives were instead saved by Nepal’s own army and its people.⁹

The disconnect between what was required of a proper recovery effort and what the IHAC delivered had dire consequences. As one analyst put it: “The initial focus on foreign medical teams and urban search and rescue delayed the rest of the humanitarian response. Determined to find earthquake victims to treat, the teams dominated the use of planes and helicopters.”¹⁰

The influx of international NGOs (“INGOs”) also led to coordination problems at the already challenged Kathmandu airport, where “delays were common due to the congestion and chaos engendered by thousands of people trying to leave the country and hundreds attempting to arrive and provide help.”¹¹ Overwhelmed by the logistical demands posed by the volume of INGOs that had descended on the capital, the Nepalese government asked those heading to Nepal to change their plans. Yet, an additional 1,300 foreign medical and 150 search and rescue personnel arrived nonetheless.¹²

According to one analysis, *less than 1% of global funds raised* by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ (“UNOCHA”) flash appeal went directly to Nepalese organizations.¹³ This was problematic for many reasons, not the least of which was that, due to their lack of local knowledge, certain international aid organizations operating in Nepal were “actually detrimental to the emergency response and recovery efforts by ... carry[ing] out ineffective and locally inappropriate projects,”¹⁴ as described above.

⁵ C. Parrish, “Nepal earthquake: One year on, what has the response been?” (Apr. 2016), <http://devinit.org/post/nepal-earthquake-one-year-on-what-has-the-response-been/>.

⁶ See, e.g., E. Troutman on how the response to the Nepal earthquake echoed the response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. E. Troutman, “What Happened to the Aid?”

⁷ C. Parish, “Nepal earthquake.” See also Kathmandu Post, “Fund collection should be transparent: FinMin” (May 16, 2015), <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-05-16/fund-collection-should-be-transparent-finmin.html>.

⁸ E. Troutman, “What Happened to the Aid?” See also K. Feldscher, “Nepal earthquake response offers lessons for future disasters” (Sept. 2016), <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/nepal-earthquake-lessons/>.

⁹ K. Feldscher, “Nepal earthquake response.”

¹⁰ E. Troutman, “What Happened to the Aid?”

¹¹ European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), “The Crisis Response to the Nepal Earthquake: Lessons Learned” (May 2016), <http://www.eias.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/The-Crisis-Response-to-the-Nepal-Earthquake--Lessons-Learned-colour-1.pdf>.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid. Roughly 80 Nepalese organizations were listed as “implementing partners” by international donors responding to the UNOCHA flash appeal, which differs from UUSC’s partnership model.

¹⁴ EIAS, “The Crisis Response to the Nepal Earthquake.” See also T. Esslemont, “Pump more aid dollars into local response, say global charities” (May 2016), <http://sustainability.thomsonreuters.com/2016/05/10/exclusive-pump-more-aid-dollars-into-local-response-say-global-charities/>.

These and other problems led the European Institute for Asian Studies to conclude that international aid organizations “should be discouraged from operating within disaster struck countries without oversight or cooperation by local authorities and/or local CSOs.”¹⁵

UUSC’S RESPONSE

UUSC launched a fundraising appeal the day after the initial earthquake, raising and eventually disbursing **fifteen grants worth \$360,350**, to support relief, recovery, and the strengthening of human rights over the course of a two-and-a-half year response.¹⁶

Unlike the response of the larger international community (the IHAC), **more than two-thirds of the funds UUSC raised went directly to local Nepalese organizations**¹⁷ aiming to protect the rights of vulnerable populations, including women, girls, children, Dalits,¹⁸ and Indigenous Peoples, and to support community leaders for long-term, sustainable solutions.

UUSC sought to achieve these aims through the following four strategies:

- Protecting the rights of women and girls and empowering female leaders by: (i) ensuring women’s immediate access to disaster relief and health services; and (ii) supporting the livelihoods of women, especially single women and Dalits.¹⁹
- Defending Indigenous rights threatened by accelerated development projects.
- Safeguarding equitable education opportunities for traditionally marginalized children in earthquake-affected regions.
- Building long-term, community-led capacity for trauma recovery and resiliency.

KEY IMPACTS & LESSONS LEARNED

With UUSC’s final earthquake-related projects concluding this fiscal year (FY 2018), UUSC visited Nepal from February 2 through 11, 2018, for a series of meetings and site visits with our Nepalese partners in order to assess the impact of UUSC’s response. We also sought to build upon the lessons we learned about our disaster response program in our Philippines Impact Assessment, conducted last year. In total, six of UUSC’s seven Nepalese partner organizations participated in the impact and learning meeting, and UUSC was also able to visit the communities of two of our local partners.²⁰

¹⁵ EIAS, “The Crisis Response to the Nepal Earthquake.”

¹⁶ These funds were fully spent-down by the end of 2017 and all projects have concluded at the time of writing (March 2018).

¹⁷ It is important to note that the reason this figure is not 100% is because we gave a substantial amount of grant funds (\$105K+) to TRI, a California-based organization, as we have in disaster response programs in Haiti, the Philippines, and the Balkans, among others. This strategy is arguably contrary to our partnership model and, to the extent possible, should be avoided in future disaster responses.

¹⁸ Dalits, a name derived from a Hindi word meaning “oppressed, suppressed, downtrodden,” are “at the bottom of the modern caste system in Nepal.” Dalits were infamously known as the “untouchables” in India’s Hindu caste system. *See* http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kishor-panthi/untouchable-modern-nepals_b_10309260.html; <http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2016/08/13/489883492/the-caste-formerly-known-as-untouchables-demands-a-new-role-in-india>.

¹⁹ This second tactic was the real focus of UUSC’s response.

²⁰ UUSC visited the Dhunche community in Rasuwa district to observe LAHURNIP’s work and the Dharmasthali district to observe Tewa’s work. The only partners who did not participate in the trip were Chetana, whom we could not reach, and TRI (not Nepal-based).

In assessing the impact of our work, UUSC considers the following questions:

- Did our partners demonstrate measurable outcomes?
- Were those outcomes observable in communities?
- Do we believe those outcomes to be sustainable? Scalable?
- Did our partners collaborate in meaningful ways?
- Did our support help fill a particular need or gap in the funding landscape?
- Did we reach especially vulnerable populations?
- What level of government cooperation was achieved?
- Did our partner organizations grow stronger as a result of our support?
- Did we give more than just financial support to our partners?

In short, we found that, by and large, **our partners *did* demonstrate measurable outcomes**. Moreover, these outcomes were **supported by and observable** in the communities we visited. Two of UUSC’s partners, Tewa and LAHURNIP, for instance, introduced us to some of the men and women they supported in the wake of the 2015 earthquakes. These communities – specifically, women from low-income areas and Indigenous People – have been **historically oppressed** in Nepal and were **especially vulnerable after the disaster**.

Nevertheless, those with whom we met demonstrated remarkably **clear understandings of their rights**; some even had ambitions to run for political office. They spoke at length about **holding duty bearers accountable** and gave specific examples of how, with our partners’ support, they had done so. Not only are these outcomes significant, **they are durable** – and the fact that we observed similar impacts across our partners and their communities indicates a replicability in their models.

Yet, as explained in more detail below, **our response might have produced even stronger results** if UUSC had committed more time and sought to develop relationships and opportunities for coordination between and among our partners from the very beginning.

High-Level Impacts

- The interventions of UUSC’s partners in Nepal benefited a significant number of people – far more, on both per-dollar and aggregate bases, than our response in the Philippines, for example.²¹ According to data reported by our partners, UUSC-funded projects have thus far benefited (directly or indirectly) **more than 112,000 individuals**. That amounts to ~\$3 per beneficiary, and an average of ~7,450 beneficiaries per grant.
- The clearest, most concrete impacts of our partners’ work related broadly to the **empowerment** of traditionally oppressed groups, including Dalits, Indigenous People, and women.
- In addition to strong indications of **increased human rights awareness** among these same groups, we also observed the development of **local community leaders** and an unprecedented engagement with **local politics** across Nepal among women and Indigenous People.

²¹ It should be kept in mind, however, that “total beneficiaries” is not a particularly reliable indicator of impact.



Indigenous leaders gathered with us in Rasuwa (left), and a local women's organization met with us in Dharmasthali (right).

Lessons Learned

- In addition to widespread devastation and suffering, the 2015 earthquakes also created an opening for new leaders to emerge. With a longer-term commitment (UUSC's response lasted just over two years), UUSC could have **continued to strengthen what is still a very nascent movement** toward engagement in local politics by a new generation of leaders from traditionally oppressed populations.
- In light of this, in the future UUSC should **commit to longer-term empowerment strategies**—ideally lasting three-to-five years—that aim to capitalize on the human rights opportunities created by natural disasters.
- Prior to our impact and learning meeting in February 2018, UUSC's partners had never been all together in the same room and did not appear to have strong preexisting relationships. Yet, at the end of the meeting, each and every partner expressed a **strong desire to collaborate**²² in the future and were eager to capitalize on the opportunity to come together and learn from each other. In the future, UUSC should **bring partners together at the beginning** of a program and explore with them **opportunities for collaboration and learning** over the course of the program.
- UUSC's Nepal earthquake response once again demonstrated the **strength and value of UUSC's unique approach to grantmaking in humanitarian disaster contexts**.²³ I understand that the UUSC board has indicated a preference that our future disaster responses utilize more than one of UUSC's strategic assets (in addition to grantmaking, in other words). As we make determinations about the

²² Some of the potential collaborations we noted were: RHEST and Empower Generation to connect in the far west region; RHEST to collaborate on advocacy with LAHURNIP in connection with IP rights; RHEST already working with Badi girls—maybe there is space to collaborate with DMEK; WHR is interested in working with RHEST on issues of single women health; WHR interested in collaborating with DMEK on Badi issues facing single women (many Badi women are single women); WHR to connect with LAHURNIP re: Lalitpur land rights issues; Tewa is already networking with LAHURNIP; Tewa supporting a Dhapakel single women's group—was involved in the hydro development project that LAHURNIP is working on.

²³ UUSC's grantmaking approach includes, among other elements, the following: (i) finding and supporting local organizations that lack access to mainstream funding and which are not otherwise accessible to individual donors in the U.S. (i.e., UUSC's member base); (ii) engaging a strategy that focuses on human rights / right-based approaches to disaster recovery, rather than only on humanitarian assistance; (iii) reaching populations that are typically left out of mainstream aid responses; (iv) providing a counterpoint to the way that aid and other assistance is provided by large humanitarian organizations (e.g., the Red Cross), in part by ensuring that those most affected are driving the solutions; (v) and a grantmaking process that is flexible, partner-centric, and not onerous.

scope of our future emergency response work, it would be wise to consider the direct impact of our emergency-related grants on local partners and the historically oppressed communities they serve.

Other Highlights of UUSC's Work

- UUSC's partner, Tewa, reached **7,116 postpartum women, pregnant women, elderly women, and children**, and distributed nearly \$500,000 worth of in-kind and cash support to local communities.
- Tewa **helped form 32 women's groups** with more than 1,000 members in total, and provided **livelihood training to more than 3,300 women**.
- One woman with whom we met in Dharmasthali told us, *"We were asked, are you ready to take on organizing and all of its challenges? Our response was very much, yes, we're ready."*
- About Tewa, a preschool teacher told us, *"It changed my life, it changed my perspective."*
- Empower Generation **trained 112 Dalit women in Gorkha** as sales agents, building entrepreneurial skills for long-term income generation, and supported two entrepreneurs in launching a joint-enterprise for the last mile distribution of solar energy.
- Over the course of the two-year grant period, Empower Generation's entrepreneurs **sold 139 solar products, earning NPR 1,17,078, giving 625 people** cleaner and safer light, saving families \$2,540 in household energy expenses, and displacing 2.24 tons of CO₂.
- After becoming an Empower Generation entrepreneur, Gita Pariyar, a Dalit woman and one of the two women entrepreneurs supported by UUSC's grant, was **elected ward member** in a local election in 2017.
- Four other Empower Generation entrepreneurs have **gone on to win ward member elections** as well.
- Empower Generation's work in Nepal inspired it to **launch similar last mile distribution projects in Burma and India**.
- UUSC's support allowed Empower Generation to launch its **first entrepreneurs in Gorkha** district, an extremely remote area. Ultimately, 10,995 solar lights, mobile chargers, and home systems were distributed in Gorkha following the earthquake, **reaching 72,343 survivors**.
- WHR used UUSC's support to raise awareness of gender-based violence and other issues facing single women among **at least 1,000 individuals**; document 35 cases of gender-based violence; and map numerous "safe spaces" and their functionality.
- WHR developed a district-level strategy for addressing gender-based violence, which was included in the Saptari district's most recent strategic planning document and will be **implemented by key stakeholders there**.
- After the earthquake, DMEK noticed that most single Dalit women in Gorkha did not have proper birth certificates or other proof of citizenship. In light of geographical difficulties in Gorkha (it is a three-day trip to/from Gorkha to get one's birth certificate certified), most women were incapable of making the trip. In response, DMEK **brought government officers to the district and registered the women as citizens**.
- With LAHURNIP's assistance, Indigenous communities in Nepal have formed **36 total "struggle committees"** to advocate for the collective rights of populations affected by large-scale development projects.
- As a result of LAHURNIP's work, affected community members have **become aware of their rights and asserted these rights** in order to, among other things, **receive compensation** for land acquired by hydro-development projects.
- In the four months following the earthquake, Chetana enabled **over 2,300 students to return to school** by setting up temporary classrooms in districts with large populations of historically oppressed minorities.

OBJECTIVE ONE:
PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AND EMPOWER FEMALE LEADERS

Tactic 1: UUSC aimed to achieve this objective by ensuring that women, girls, and Dalits had immediate access to disaster relief and health services.

The Problem

Women and girls suffer disproportionately in disaster settings. The chaos and lack of shelter increase the exposure of women to sexual violence and human trafficking,²⁴ while lack of access to sanitation and health services increase the risk of reproductive health problems. Pregnant women are adversely affected by difficulties obtaining safe drinking water and food. The post-disaster situation of Nepalese women only compounds historic gender inequalities – the country ranked 110th of 145 countries in the World Economic Forum’s 2015 Global Gender Gap Index²⁵ based on health, education, economy, and politics.

Historically oppressed across South Asia, Dalits constitute the bottom rung of the Nepalese caste system. According to the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN),

Almost half of Nepal’s Dalits live below the poverty line. They are landless and much poorer than the dominant caste population. Their life expectancy is lower than the national average, and so is their literacy rate. Dalits are routinely denied access to religious sites, they face resistance to inter-caste marriages, refusal by non-Dalits to handle water touched by them, and many other forms of discrimination.²⁶

In Nepal, women Dalits have it even worse. As ISDN puts it, Dalit women “have no control over land, housing or money and are forced into the most demeaning jobs,” including as bonded laborers.²⁷ Dalit women are often targeted by sex traffickers or forced into sexual slavery and prostitution. Moreover, the limited access to political participation among all Dalits means that their circumstances can seem particularly entrenched.

In 2016, during a UN forum on minority access to humanitarian aid, the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues observed, “an analysis of emergency responses to natural disasters in South Asia, including in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, has demonstrated that Dalits ... have suffered from acute discrimination throughout all the phases of disaster response, from rescue to rehabilitation.”²⁸

UUSC’s Response

²⁴ See, e.g., Time, “Two Years After the Devastating Earthquake, Nepal’s Women Have Become Easy Prey for Traffickers” (Apr. 25, 2017), <http://time.com/4442805/nepal-earthquake-anniversary-poverty-women-trafficking/>.

²⁵ See World Economic Forum, “Global Gender Gap Report” (2015), <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2015/>.

²⁶ International Dalit Solidarity Network, Nepal, available at <http://idsn.org/countries/nepal/>.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ ISDN, “(In)Equality in Aid discussed at the 9th session of the Forum on Minority Issues” (Nov. 2016), available at <http://idsn.org/inequality-aid-discussed-9th-session-forum-minority-issues/>.

To help counteract these dynamics, UUSC supported organizations that could provide women and girls with immediate access to disaster relief and health services, providing **two initial grants worth \$49,000.**

Tewa

Tewa, which means “support” in Nepali, is the first women’s fund in Asia. The organization provides funding for community-based women’s groups in rural Nepal to pursue gender-based social justice programs and facilitate the sustainability of women’s groups.

UUSC partnered with Tewa **within days of the earthquake**, providing an unrestricted grant of \$25,000 to support immediate relief efforts and help vulnerable women. Tewa targeted pregnant women, women in labor, and nursing mothers to provide postnatal and prenatal care to displaced women in addition to food, clothing, and shelter.

Taking a flexible, culturally sensitive approach tailored to the communities in which they were working, Tewa mobilized volunteers to assist affected communities and **reached 15 districts, 112 communities, and 23,271 households through its relief efforts.** Tewa worked **365 days in a row** during its earthquake relief and recovery work and **successfully raised nearly \$10,000 from within the affected communities,** successfully promoting its model of community philanthropy.

Impact Highlights:

- Tewa reached **7,116 postpartum women, pregnant women, elderly women, and children,** and distributed **nearly \$500,000** worth of in-kind and cash support to local communities.
- Volunteers **cleaned-up a community pond** that had become contaminated and now that community has drinking water that **benefits 30 households.**

RHEST

Rural Health and Education Service Trust (RHEST) promotes the health and education of underprivileged girls and women living in remote areas of Nepal. As part of the post-earthquake response, UUSC provided RHEST with a \$20,000 grant over two years to support the dissemination of information on nutrition and reproductive health for **3,000 adolescent girls**, as well as trainings for community health workers and school teachers on reproductive health in the earthquake-affected area of Makwanpur.

Impact Highlights:

- Trained **1,500 students** in rural health (goal: 800).
 - Trained **136 workers** from 24 districts (goal: 100 from 18 districts).
 - **3,500 individuals** from 24 districts participated in health screening camps (goal: 1,000 from 18 districts).
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Tactic 2: In addition to ensuring that women and Dalits had immediate access to aid, UUSC sought to empower and strengthen the resiliency of these historically oppressed populations through livelihood support and development.

The Problem

Women, especially single women in Nepal, faced particular challenges in rebuilding their lives after the earthquakes and are always at risk of exclusion from mainstream reconstruction efforts. This situation is magnified for those who are elderly, disabled, and/or belong to oppressed castes or ethnic and Indigenous

minorities. The government of Nepal estimates that, of the roughly half million households damaged in the quakes, more than a quarter were headed by single women.²⁹

Even before the earthquakes, women in these households tended to have higher rates of food insecurity³⁰ and lower household incomes than the rest of the population, so the resources they could devote to rebuilding were often minimal.³¹ In many cases, they were compelled to shoulder the enormous physical burden of reconstruction on their own, due to the absence of male relatives and informal discrimination from neighbors.³²

In light of these ongoing challenges and Nepal's struggling economy, a large number of Nepalese leave the country for migrant labor jobs,³³ primarily in the Gulf. This renders Nepalese women particularly susceptible to human trafficking³⁴ and attendant abuses, including inhumane working conditions, bonded labor schemes, and sexual abuse. This problem is compounded by Nepalese immigration officials' collusion in trafficking efforts.³⁵

Nepal's economy is overly dependent on migrant labor;³⁶ yet, government policies restrict women's use of official channels for joining the migrant labor force, leaving the door wide open for traffickers—particularly in the aftermath of a disaster, when employment is even scarcer than usual and resources more desperately needed. As one Nepalese sociologist told *Time* last year, “The middlemen will tell the girls that this is banned, so don't tell anyone; if you tell, they will prevent you so your dream will not be fulfilled.”³⁷ This dynamic creates the optimal climate for exploitation and abuse.

UUSC's Response

To combat these risks and disrupt the patriarchal system of oppression in Nepal, UUSC partnered with **Tewa, Empower Generation, Women for Human Rights Single Women Group, and Dalit Mahila Ekata Kendra (DMEK)** on projects aimed at strengthening livelihood opportunities and promoting empowerment among women, single women, and Dalits. UUSC's support came in the form of **five grants worth \$100,850.**

Tewa

UUSC continued its support of **Tewa** in 2016, making a second grant of \$29,000 to further Tewa's “Shadow Barefoot Volunteers” project. This project sent women volunteers from across Nepal to the earthquake-

²⁹ Government of Nepal, *Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Vol. A.*, 62, reflecting the rate of female-headed households in Nepal as a whole; UN Women, “Helping Nepali Widows Regain Their Footing” (Jun. 22, 2015) (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/6/helping-nepali-widows-regain-their-footing>).

³⁰ PDNA, Vol. A, 9.

³¹ PDNA, Vol. A, 3 & 71.

³² Oxfam America, “Women Living in Fear Three Months On” (July 27, 2015), (<https://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2015-07-25/women-living-fear-their-safety-three-months-nepal-earthquake>).

³³ “Around 20 percent of [Nepal's] almost 29 million people are migrant workers in the Middle East. Reuters, “Nepali immigration officials may be involved in trafficking women to Gulf.”

³⁴ Time, “Two Years After the Devastating Earthquake.” Though women make up 12% of the “official” migrant labor force, most use unofficial channels.

³⁵ Reuters, “Nepali immigration officials may be involved in trafficking women to Gulf” (Mar. 31, 2017), (<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nepal-trafficking-gulf-idUSKBN1722G4/>).

³⁶ According to the World Bank, remittances from migrant workers constitute more than 30% of the country's total GDP. World Bank, “Nepal Development Update” (May 2016), (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/564551468198011442/pdf/106393-WP-PUBLIC-ADD-SERIES-Nepal-Development-Update-2016.pdf>).

³⁷ Time, “Two Years After the Devastating Earthquake.”

affected districts of Lalitpur and Sindhupalchowk where more than 3,000 were killed and 850 injured to work with mothers' groups, community groups, children, and teachers on capacity-strengthening related to human rights, income-generation, and gender sensitivity. These "Barefoot Volunteers" also partnered with local women's groups, which Tewa helped form, to clean-up rubble and rebuild houses. The group even constructed a temporary road in one village.

Key Impacts

In 2016, Tewa's former Executive Director, Sadhana Shrestha, suggested to UUSC that "the most important achievement" of Tewa's project would be

building the self-confidence of the community, providing support to them as and when they needed it the most, transferring skills and knowledge to the community to make them self-reliant, competent, confident, and strong, and able to work for themselves and their families.

One of the most exciting aspect of our February 2018 impact assessment in Nepal was seeing how Sadhana's prediction came to life in person within Tewa's communities, where newly empowered women can, for the first time, envision their own involvement in local politics.³⁸

During our trip, we met with the Srijansil Mahila women's group in Dharmasthali, which Tewa and its barefoot volunteers helped establish after the earthquake. After receiving livelihood skills trainings on sewing and soap making, some of the community's women expressed a desire to better understand their rights. With Tewa's guidance, the women formed the Srijansil Mahila women's organization in order to engage in rights awareness raising, leadership development, and advocacy at the local level. As one woman with whom we met in Dharmasthali put it, "*We were asked, are you ready to take on organizing and all of its challenges? Our response was very much, yes, we're ready.*"

In conversations with the Srijansil Mahila members, we were told repeatedly that, with Tewa's support, the women now feel like they can "face whatever challenges arise;" before they felt like they "had no support, but now they can rely on each other." About Tewa, a preschool teacher told us, "*It changed my life, it changed my perspective.*" The group is even embracing Tewa's community philanthropy model and has begun raising funds from the community to support its work.

Fortunately, these outcomes were more than anecdotal. We learned that more women in the Dharmasthali ward (in which the Srijansil Mahila's women's organization's is based) participate in local politics than in any other ward in Nepal. In fact, **the main focus of Srijansil Mahila right now is how to effectively engage politically, and some of its members are considering running for local office in the next election cycle.** If political parties come looking for candidates, the members told us, they "want to be ready!" As another member Srijansil Mahila told us, "*Politics [in Nepal] are typically set up where women are expected to take the supporting roles, like treasurer or secretary. Now, we can fight for lead roles.*"

³⁸ We also observed or heard reports of this trend among the Indigenous Tamang community living near the China border, where UUSC has supported LAHURNIP's efforts to encourage communities to fight for adequate compensation and community protections in connection with large-scale development projects; and within the communities of single women across Nepal supported by WHR, from which nearly 100 single women have been identified as political candidates by national parties; and in Nepal's remote Gorkha district, where five of Empower Generation's women entrepreneurs have gone on to win ward member elections.

Impact Highlights:

- Since its founding after the earthquake, the Tewa-supported Srijansil Mahila women's group in Dharmasthali has **formed strong relationships** with other women's organizations and local governments, even **receiving five tables and 100 chairs from the local government** so that the group can rent out its meeting space in order to sustain the group's future activities.
- The women in Srijansil Mahila believe that the leadership skills they have learned must be **shared with others**. To this end, one woman told us of how she helped establish another women's group in her community and is sharing what she has learned with them.
- We met with Gauri Basnet (32) and Kabita Kohatri (29) who **opened a tailoring shop** after receiving sewing training from Tewa. Now, they feel they have a "real purpose" in life. They hope to grow their business and eventually sell clothes they themselves sew. Each month they earn \$75/person, which they save and use for their children's education. When asked if they would encourage their daughters to get involved in tailoring work when they get older, they responded, "No," they hope their daughters go on to college and become doctors or engineers.
- **4,179 women** demonstrated awareness of different human rights abuses specific to women.
- Helped form **32 women's groups** with more than **1,000 members**.
- Provided livelihood training to **more than 3,300 women**.
- Cleared rubble at **117 sites**; dismantled **94 houses**; built five community taps and **112 toilets**.

Empower Generation

Empower Generation enables women to distribute clean energy solutions in their communities. Its network of female entrepreneurs comprises the only "last mile" distribution network in Nepal, which is able to sustainably deliver long-lasting energy solutions to families with the least access. Empower Generation's women-led clean energy business model has reached nearly 300,000 women, saving impoverished families over \$2 million in household energy expenses and removing nearly 10,000 tons of CO₂ by replacing kerosene and candles.

UUSC provided Empower Generation with a two-year, \$22,000 grant to distribute much needed solar light and mobile charging to those who have been displaced by the earthquake and to create income-generating opportunities for Dalit women as entrepreneurs and solar sales agents (20% of the population of Gorkha are Dalits). The group **trained 112 Dalit women in Gorkha** as sales agents, building entrepreneurial skills for long-term income generation, and supported two entrepreneurs in launching a joint-enterprise for the last-mile distribution of solar energy. These entrepreneurs co-drafted a business plan and formed an official entity, called Ashmita and Laxmi Sourya Urjah and Traders, named after their daughters. In addition to running the business staffed with ten sales agents, they provide income-generation, sales, and marketing trainings.

Over the course of the two-year grant period, Empower Generation's entrepreneurs **sold 139 solar products**, earning NPR 1,17,078, giving **625 people** cleaner and safer light, saving families **\$2,540** in household energy expenses, and displacing **2.24 tons** of CO₂.

Key Impacts

In addition to providing last mile communities with access to clean energy, Empower Generation has lived up to its name, **emboldening traditionally oppressed women through skills development trainings and new livelihood opportunities**. Here, we see additional examples of "what empowerment looks like," as a number of its entrepreneurs have **become local government officials** – an unthinkable result prior to the

earthquake. Empower Generation is also deepening its relationship with the national government in Nepal, which will lead to additional cost saving for its product users, and is expanding to other countries in need of last mile distribution networks.

Impact Highlights:

- After becoming an Empower Generation entrepreneur, Gita Pariyar, a Dalit woman and one of the two women entrepreneurs supported by UUSC's grant, was elected as ward member in a local election in 2017.
- **Four** other Empower Generation entrepreneurs have gone on to win ward member elections as well.
- Empower Generation is now **working with the Nepali government to achieve tax credits** for the use of solar products.
- Empower Generation's work in Nepal inspired it to launch **similar last mile distribution projects in Burma and India.**
- UUSC's support allowed Empower Generation to launch its first entrepreneurs in Gorkha district, an extremely remote area. Ultimately, **10,995** solar lights, mobile chargers, and home systems distributed in Gorkha following the earthquake, reaching **72,343 survivors.**

WHR

The **Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group (WHR)** works to protect the rights of single women, primarily widows, in Nepal. WHR has organized over 100,000 single women in 2,550 village development committees and municipalities of 73 districts. WHR has been so successful in mobilizing widows as key agents of change in their respective communities that they received Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2011. UUSC's support to WHR helped women develop and implement district-level strategic plans to respond to gender-based violence (GBV), collect data on cases of the GBV for policy advocacy, and establish a referral and safety net for victims of GBV at the district and national levels.

Following the earthquake, WHR worked directly with single women leaders in the displacement camps around Kathmandu to educate women about sexual exploitation and violence. In Saptarai District in the Terai region, an area that witnessed significant violence against women and girls, WHR used a \$20,000 grant from UUSC to raise awareness of GBV and other issues facing single women **among at least 1,000 individuals; document 35 cases of gender-based violence; and map "safe spaces"** and their functionality. UUSC also provided a \$20,000 grant to WHR to support its advocacy with the UN Commission on the Status of Women.³⁹

Key Impacts

Like Tewa and Empower Generation, WHR was able to leverage its post-earthquake work to raise awareness of human rights among women, empower single women to take leadership roles in their communities, and to push local governments to strengthen protections of women.

Across Nepal, more than 60 single women supported by WHR won local elections in 2017, and WHR's strategic plan for addressing gender-based violence at the district level will be implemented in Saptari, an area where GBV has been historically very high.

³⁹ It was not clear, from our analysis or the impact assessment meeting, what outcomes this project achieved.

Impact Highlights:

- More than **100 single women supported by WHR became candidates** in the most recent local elections, and **63 of these women won!**
- Through focus group discussions with security officials, single women groups, and youth groups, WHR developed **referral channels** for services for victims of gender-based violence (GBV).
- WHR developed a district-level strategy for addressing GBV, which was **included in the Saptari district's most recent strategic planning document** and will be **implemented by key stakeholders** there.

DMEK

Dalit Mahila Ekata Kendra (DMEK) was formed to support women from the particularly oppressed Badi community – a group within the Dalit caste that has historically been associated with prostitution and faces severe discrimination even among other Dalits. With a \$9,850 grant from UUSC, DMEK worked in the Arghakhachi district of Nepal, an area affected by the earthquake and home to a large population of Badi women and girls, on livelihood strengthening programs.

Key Impacts

DMEK's project provided an opportunity for Badi women and others to enroll in classes together on income generation, skill development, protection of human rights, health, sanitation, education, and rehabilitation. As DMEK's founder, Nirmala Gupta, explained to us, "The trainings have brought together women from different social backgrounds and status. This has built social harmony as well as leadership skills among women. This has changed their traditional attitude, which can last forever."

Impact Highlights:

- With DMEK's support: **70 individuals** received relief materials (20 women and 50 students); **300 individuals** were trained in sanitation, healthy habits, and the government earthquake rehabilitation policy; and **250 women** enrolled in income-generation trainings.
- After the earthquake, DMEK noticed that **most single Dalit women in Gorkha did not have proper birth certificates or other proof of citizenship**. Given geographical and language difficulties in Gorkha (it is a three-day trip to/from Gorkha to get one's birth certificate certified), most women were incapable of making the trip. In response, DMEK **brought government officers to the district and registered the women as citizens**.

OBJECTIVE TWO: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES THREATENED BY ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
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The Problem

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) comprise somewhere between 35 and 50-percent of Nepal's total population. Despite these large numbers, Indigenous communities have been historically oppressed along social, cultural, political, and economic lines. Increasingly, the rights of these populations, who often reside in rural or remote areas, have been threatened by mega-development projects with adverse environmental, health, and human rights impacts.

Following the April and May 2015 earthquakes, international investors and bilateral aid agencies announced plans to facilitate new investments and accelerate construction on existing and new hydropower projects. Many of these projects are located in remote regions of Nepal particularly hard-hit during the earthquake and still in the process of recovery. Vulnerable Indigenous communities found themselves even more vulnerable to projects imposed without their knowledge and consent, leading to potential displacement and irreversible environmental impacts.

UUSC's Response

In order to help strengthen the protection and foster the self-determination of Indigenous communities threatened by these development projects, UUSC provided **two grants worth a total of \$60,000** to **Lawyer's Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP)**.

LAHURNIP was established in 1995 by a group of Indigenous lawyers to promote, protect, and defend the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous people in Nepal. It envisions a world where Indigenous people equally participate in decision-making processes and feel valued, respected, and listened to, where they feel safe and are safe, and where they can develop their fullest potential. UUSC's support helped LAHURNIP engage communities impacted by the accelerated investment in the hydropower sector following the earthquake to understand and advocate for their rights through training and advocacy. As a result of the work UUSC supported, affected community members have **become aware of their rights and asserted these rights in order to, among other things, receive compensation** for land acquired by development projects in Rasuwa and Panchthar districts.

As part of our impact assessment trip to Nepal in February 2018, we traveled to Rasuwa district, an area of Nepal close to the border with China, and met with seventeen members of the Tamang Indigenous community, including Mr. Karsang Temba Tamang,⁴⁰ a permanent resident of Rasuwa district with a history of organizing Indigenous People in rural Nepal.

In addition to being heavily impacted by the 2015 earthquakes – all 22 houses in Mr. Tamang's hillside village were destroyed in landslides following the quake – Rasuwa district has been directly impacted by dozens of recent development projects, including the Upper Trishuli-1 hydro-development project⁴¹ (“UT-1”) run by the Nepal Water & Energy Development Co. (NWED). This project, which involves the diversion of the Trishuli River between Dhunche and Mailung in Rasuwa district in order to provide hydroelectric power to Kathmandu, has displaced hundreds of Indigenous and local communities from their traditional lands and territories, often without appropriate compensation, as was the case with Mr. Tamang and his family. Blasts associated with this and other development projects in the Rasuwa area (such as road expansion) have also resulted in landslides⁴² damaging homes and property, and has rendered the hillsides fragile and dangerous.

Key Impacts

In our meeting with Indigenous leaders in Rasuwa, we once again observed a historically oppressed community that was newly organized and mobilized to defend its rights. With LAHURNIP's assistance, Indigenous communities in Nepal have formed **36 total “struggle committees”** to advocate for the collective rights of populations affected by large-scale development projects, and we met with members of one of these committees in Rasuwa. In our conversation it became clear that, **prior to LAHURNIP's intervention, the**

⁴⁰ In connection with his work as IPHRD, Karsang mentioned that he has received threatening phone calls, been arrested, and been detained for protesting.

⁴¹ See <http://nwedcpl.com/project/projectsummary>.

⁴² See, e.g., The Wire, “One Belt, One Road Fuels Nepal's Dreams” (May 2018), available at <https://thewire.in/156554/nepal-china-obor-transport-infrastructure/>.

community was mostly unaware of the rights held by Indigenous People and how they applied to ongoing development projects in their district.

Since its inception, members told us, the struggle committee has **held several workshops with the community, engaged in dialogues with the NWED, and submitted a list of demands** from the community.⁴³ We also learned that, in order to undermine the authority and unity of the struggle committee and those opposed to the project, the NWED had formed a “consent committee” and encouraged up to 104 members of the community to join.

According to the individuals with whom we met in Rasuwa, the consent committee had registered as an independent Nepalese NGO as well, potentially entitling it to government benefits. Tahal Thami, Executive Director of LAHURNIP and our interpreter and travel companion, noted that this form of “divide and rule” was standard practice in Indigenous communities and that it made it difficult to organize effective resistance. This dynamic underscores the importance of LAHURNIP’s work and the magnitude of its achievements thus far.

Impact Highlights:

- After the inception of the UT-1 development project, Mr. Tamang was appointed one of LAHURNIP’s Indigenous Peoples Human Right Defenders (IPHRD) and participated in trainings, community seminars, and meetings held by LAHURNIP. As a result of the lobbying, advocacy, and protests that LAHURNIP facilitated, **Mr. Tamang and other members of the affected community received monetary compensation** for their land.
- Mr. Birkha Bahadur Waiba-Tamang and Ms. Niranti Tumbapo, from Panchthar district, have also been working as IPHRDs with LAHURNIP. After participating in LAHURNIP’s trainings, they have been actively engaged in community mobilization, capacity development of community leaders, and the documentation of cases of human rights violations. Following their facilitation of a dialogue between the communities and a company involved in the Kabeli “A” hydro-development project, the company agreed to provide **75% compensation for the land acquisition (prior to dialogue, there was no compensation being contemplated)**. The communities are still pushing for 100% compensation and benefit sharing.

After our February 2018 meetings in Rasuwa, we traveled to the site of the UT-1 development project to see first-hand its impacts and meet with more affected community members. Well, we tried. Nearly there, another development project (and one on which LAHURNIP is also working) had closed the only road to the site. This was one of the projects to expand and develop a new road and, eventually, a railway to China, in furtherance of Nepali-China trade and backed by Chinese entities and the Chinese government.⁴⁴

We walked as far as we could before falling boulders permanently ended our visit. Two diggers perched on the hillside were busy extracting and dumping earth down into the valley in order to widen the road. Falling

⁴³ Demands include shares in the project; protection of natural resources; replanting of trees; and jobs for those in the community.

⁴⁴ China’s influence is all over Nepal – an issue that is creating anxiety in places far beyond small South Asian countries. *See, e.g.*, NY Times, “Europe Once Saw Xi Jinping as a Hedge Against Trump. Not Anymore” (Mar. 4, 2018), available at

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/04/world/europe/europe-china-xi-trump-trade.html?ref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fworld&action=click&contentCollection=world®ion=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=sectionfront>.

rocks had literally blocked our way, so we turned back, passing another hydro-development project and a temporary displaced persons camp serving families displaced by the earthquake. On our way back to Kathmandu, we were again stymied by a road expansion project – this one ostensibly in service of the same aims. It would take another six hours before the road would reopen, permitting our return to the capital.

<p style="text-align: center;">OBJECTIVE THREE: SAFEGUARDING EQUITABLE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADITIONALLY MARGINALIZED CHILDREN</p>
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The Problem

According to the United Nations Children’s Fund, approximately a million children were severely affected by the earthquake. More than 32,000 classrooms were destroyed and officials have estimated that roughly \$24.1 million was needed to construct new learning centers to accommodate students. In recent decades, Nepal has taken many steps to further education, increasing primary school enrollment from 64-percent to 95-percent since 1990. However, literacy levels are still among the lowest in Asia, with a disproportionate effect on Nepali women. Nepal’s entrenched political, economic, and social fabric has also prevented children who are traditionally discriminated against, such as Dalit children from lower castes, from meaningful access to schooling.

UUSC’s Response

UUSC responded by providing two grants worth \$24,500 to Chetana⁴⁵ and its efforts to safeguard equitable education opportunities for traditionally vulnerable children.

Run by teachers, Chetana’s mission is to create a friendly and enabling school environment for LGBTQI youth as well as girls and children from remote areas and lower castes. Chetana is committed to ensuring that these children have equal access to education and the opportunity to resume their lives. Chetana has trained several thousand teachers on gender, sexuality, and reproductive justice and the challenges that LGBTQI students face and how to create friendly school environments for these students. In part because of this work, the Nepal government moved in 2013 to include gender and sexuality into the standard educational curriculum.

With a \$17,000 grant from UUSC, Chetana worked to set up temporary classrooms in the affected Gorkha, Lamjung, and Tanahu districts, where respective student populations are 38, 70, and more than 80-percent Dalit. It also made provisions to serve midday meals for displaced students.

Key Impacts

In the four months following the earthquake, Chetana **enabled over 2,300 students to return to school** by setting up temporary classrooms in districts with large populations of historically marginalized minorities. Resuming normal life is one step of the healing process after a disaster of this sizable proportion. Schools offer a safe place for children and often play a critical role in offering respite and distraction that can help children transition back to daily life. In emergency situations like that in Nepal, schools can serve to keep children away from trafficking and child labor predators, a task that is especially vital to ensure the safety of young girls.

⁴⁵ Chetana was the only Nepalese organization that did not attend our impact assessment and learning meeting in Nepal. The organization never responded to our inquiries.

A second UUSC grant (of \$17,500) allowed Chetana to conduct a Community Resiliency Model (“CRM”) trauma resiliency training program for teachers, members of school management committees, health workers, police personnel, and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address their students’ post-earthquake stress and trauma.⁴⁶

**OBJECTIVE FOUR:
BUILDING LONG-TERM COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL CAPACITY FOR
TRAUMA RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY**

The Problem

Following the 2015 earthquakes, Nepal saw a vastly increased need for psychosocial care relating to anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, among other problems, and not nearly enough resources to meet it. Based on global figures, the World Health Organization estimated that 15-to-20-percent of the country’s population would suffer from a mild or moderate emotional disorder as a result of the earthquake and its aftermath, and 3-to-4-percent would experience a severe disorder.⁴⁷ These numbers equate to approximately five million people in need of mental health services. Even with international assistance, Nepal’s government does not possess the infrastructure to serve such large numbers of affected people on its own. Most hospitals and clinics outside of Kathmandu lack any capacity to provide mental health care or psychosocial support. Rural and remote districts, often those most impacted by the earthquake, feel this dearth most keenly.

UUSC’s Response

UUSC responded to these needs by continuing to promote the innovative trauma recovery techniques pioneered by long-time partner, California-based **Trauma Resource Institute (TRI)**. TRI was first identified as a potential UUSC partner after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Since then, TRI has received grants from UUSC to provide trauma resiliency training in Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, the Philippines, and Rwanda. In Nepal, UUSC provided **four grants worth \$126,004**.

With UUSC’s support, TRI conducted a series of community-based trauma recovery and resiliency “train the trainer” courses (as well as a follow-up training) for community workers and professionals from local Nepalese NGOs.

Key Impacts

These trainings helped build long-term local capacity for trauma recovery and resiliency in diverse communities and sectors of Nepal by **training a total of over 100 frontline service providers, social workers, community leaders, teachers, clinicians and professionals** from NGOs who work with survivors of the earthquake community workers. UUSC’s partner, Chetana, attended and subsequently conducted its own CRM training. TRI estimated that the trainers it trained in CRM skills would, in turn, **train nearly 10,000 people**. UUSC also provided our partner in the Philippines, PhilACTS, with two grants (worth \$6,050 and \$14,300, respectively) to support TRI’s CRM trainings in Nepal.

⁴⁶ For more about this aspect of UUSC’s response, please see Objective Four, below.

⁴⁷ Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *Nepal Earthquakes 2015: Desk Review of Existing Information with Relevance to Mental Health & Psychosocial Support* (May 2015, Updated June 18, 2015), pp. 32-34. (http://mhpss.net/?get=263/20150622-Nepal-earthquakes-MHPSS-desk-review_150619.pdf).

The International Medical Corps (IMC) also notes, “Rates of common mental disorders, such as anxiety disorders and depression, often double in the context of humanitarian emergencies from a baseline of about 10% to 20%.” *Rapid Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Situational Assessment*, May 22, 2015, p. 6 (<http://internationalmedicalcorps.org/document.doc?id=672>).